

ABSTRACT

An object of the invention is to realize a low cost, low loss multi-directional optical branching apparatus with a simple configuration, capable of outputting WDM signal lights of uniform power in three or more directions. To this end, the multi-directional optical branching apparatus of the invention is provided with $2 \times N$ optical multiplexing/demultiplexing devices for N ($N \geq 3$) optical transmission paths, and a branch port connecting section that connects in one to one between the respective branch ports. The apparatus demultiplexes respectively the WDM signal light input from an input side optical path of each of the optical transmission paths into $N-1$ wavelength groups, and then multiplexes each of the demultiplexed groups with optical signals of different wavelength groups from other directions, to output to an output side optical path of a predetermined optical transmission path.